REMARKS:

This Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action of January 31, 2002. Claims 50 and 51 remain for consideration in this application.

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35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

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The Examiner rejected claims 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to clarify the terminology objected to in each instance set out in the Examiner's Action.

Claim 50

A clarifying recitation unrelated to patentability has been added to claim 50 regarding intermittently releasing tension on the stretch of the web while a segment thereof is at the processing station. Thus the segment may be moved by the holder as required in the X axis feed direction of the web, the Y axis direction transverse to the X axis feed direction, and about a θ axis of rotation of the holder while the segment of the web is held by the holder at the processing station.

In line 7, the language "and remaining a part of" portion of the web has been replaced with "adjacent" portions thus clarifying the recitation deemed by the Examiner to be indefinite.

Objection was made to the language "in the X axis direction. . . perpendicular to the X and Y directions" appearing at lines 7 - 10 of claim 50. Reconsideration is requested of the assertion that the cited language is indefinite, particularly in light of the clarifying revisions that have been made to the language at lines 6, 7 and 10 of claim 50. At line 6 and 7, the claim recitation calls for the step of continuing to hold the held segment of the web at the processing station while allowing the held segment to move relative to adjacent portions of the web. Lines 7 - 10 go on to call for the step of

the held segment being movable in the X direction of feed of the stretch of the web to the processing

station in a Y axis direction transverse of the X direction of feed of the stretch of the web and about

a θ axis of rotation of the holder which is perpendicular to the defined X and Y axis directions. This

recitation is definite in all respects in that the X axis is clearly defined as the direction of feed to the

web processing station, the Y axis is an axis transverse to the defined X axis, and the θ axis is the

axis of rotation of the holder. The θ axis of rotation is perpendicular to the defined X and Y axis

directions. There is no ambiguity in these recitations.

The change suggested by the Examiner in line 7 regarding substitution of "adjacent" for "and

remaining a part of . . . on each side thereof" has been made in claim 50.

With respect to the objection to the "accurately adjusting" recitation beginning at line 11 of

claim 50, the claim language has been clarified by making it clear the step carried out is accurate

adjustment of the position of the held segment at the processing station by subjecting the held

segment to controlled simultaneous adjustment motions in the X, Y or θ axis directions as required

to obtain accurate alignment of the segment of the web with processing components at the processing

station. The accurate adjusting step is carried out by X, Y andθ movement of the web segment as

required at the processing station while being held at the station.

Claim 51

Claim 51 has been clarified by deleting the ambiguous "including the step of" recitation in

line 2.

Rejection of Claims 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 50 and 51 were rejected as being fully anticipated by the '485 Raney patent, assigned

to Preco Industries, Inc., the Assignee of this application.

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Claim 50 calls for a method of processing segments of a continuous flexible web while each individual web segment which remains a unitary part of the web is held at a processing station and simultaneously moved as necessary in an X axis, Y axis, or θ axis while being held at the processing station. In order to permit such movement of the held web segment while remaining a part of the web, the method includes the step of intermittently releasing tension on the stretch of the web incrementally advanced to the processing station while a segment of the web is held at the processing station.

By incrementally advancing a segment of the web into the processing station, then holding the segment of the web at the processing station followed by releasing the tension on the stretches of the web on opposite sides of the held segment, that segment can be moved as required in X, Y and θ motion directions to obtain accurate alignment of an image on the web segment with web processing components at the processing station.

The Raney '485 patent does not provide apparatus in any way adapted to process segments of a web as called for by claims 50 and 51. In '485 Raney, tension on the web is maintained at all times. As stretches of the web are incrementally advanced into the stamping station of the '485 patent press without release of tension on the web, the web itself while still under tension is moved under the X axis direction and the processing die assembly mounted on the floating bolster of the press is shifted in a Y axis or θ axis direction, all as required in order to obtain registration of the die assembly with an image on the web to be processed. Thus, the press structure of the '485 patent is totally different and the press operates in an entirely different manner from the process as set forth in claims 50 and 51.

Summary

Claims 50 and 51 have been amended by deletion of terms that have been objected to and addition of clarifying language. Thus, claims 50 and 51 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph two. In addition, the method as set out in claims 50 and 51 is not anticipated by the structure and teaching of the cited '485 Raney patent. Accordingly, claims 50 and 51 should be allowed when this application is reached for attention and early favorable consideration is requested.
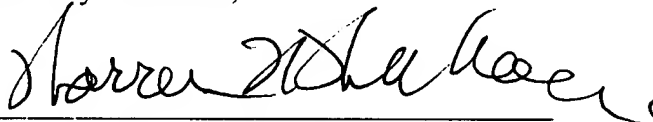
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)

(Docket No. 25520-B)

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 50 - 51 have been amended as follows:

5   50.   (Second Amended) A method of processing segments of a continuous flexible web

wherein a stretch of the web is incrementally advanced under tension to successively feed at least

one segment of the web to a web processing station having processing components, said method

comprising:

intermittently releasing tension on the stretch of the web while said at least one segment

10   thereof is at the processing station;

holding each successive segment of the stretch of the web while the segment is positioned

at the web processing station;

continuing to hold the held segment of the web at the processing station while allowing the

held segment to [shift] move relative to [and remaining a part of] adjacent portions

15   of the web [on each side thereof], said held segment being movable in the X axis

direction of feed of the stretch of the web to the processing station, in a Y axis

direction transverse of the X direction of feed of said stretch of the web, and about

a θ axis of rotation of the holder perpendicular to [the] said X and Y axis directions;

accurately adjusting the position of the held segment of the web at said processing station

20   prior to processing thereof [and relative to the remaining portions of the web] by

subjecting the held segment to controlled adjustment motion selected from the group

consisting of motion along said X axis, motion along said Y axis, rotation about said

θ axis, and simultaneous combinations of such motions as required to obtain accurate

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alignment of the segment of the web with the processing components at said

processing station; and

processing each segment within the station after said accurate adjustment thereof.

5   51.   (Second Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the processing

components include die cutting elements, and [including the step of] wherein said processing step

includes subjecting the held segment of the web at said processing station to die cutting after

adjustment of the position of the held segment of the web aligned with the die cutting elements.